

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A water-emulsifiable isocyanate composition comprising:

polyisocyanates consisting of: (A) 40-90 % by weight of an isocyanurate and/or biuret of 1,6-diisocyanatohexane (HDI)[[.]] and (B) 5-60% by weight of an isocyanurate of 1-isocyanato-3,5,5-trimethyl-5-isocyanatomethylcyclohexane (IPDI)[[.]];

(C) at least one emulsifier[[.]]; and

(D) ~~optionally~~ a solvent,

wherein the at least one emulsifier is obtained by the reaction of at least part of the isocyanurate and/or biuret of HDI, and/or the isocyanurate of IPDI with 5-40% by weight of at least one component (C1), wherein the component (C1) comprises at least one isocyanate-reactive group and at least one hydrophilic group.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein component (C1) is at least one polyalkylene oxide polyether alcohol, obtained by reacting at least one saturated aliphatic alcohol, having 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical, with ethylene oxide, propylene oxide or a mixture thereof.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the polyalkylene oxide polyether alcohol contains, on average, from 5 to 35 ethylene oxide units per molecule.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein a carbonic ester or lactone is used as solvent (D).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solvent is present in amounts up to 60%, by weight, based on the total mixture.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A polymer dispersion, comprising the composition as claimed in claim 1, and one or more additives.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A coating composition, comprising the composition as claimed in claim 1, and one or more additives.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method of coating a substrate, comprising, applying the composition as claimed in claim 1, as a coating material, to the substrate.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 11, wherein the substrate is selected from wood, wood veneer, paper, paperboard, cardboard, textile, leather, nonwoven, plastic surfaces, glass, ceramic, mineral building materials, coated metals or uncoated metals.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method of adhesively bonding substrates, comprising, applying the mixture as claimed in claim 1, to at least one substrate.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A coating composition, comprising the polymer dispersion as claimed in claim 9, and one or more additives.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A method of adhesively bonding substrates, comprising, applying the polymer dispersion of claim 9, to at least one substrate.

Claim 16 (New): A water-emulsifiable isocyanate composition consisting of:  
polyisocyanates consisting of: (A) 40-90 % by weight of an isocyanurate and/or biuret of 1,6-diisocyanatohexane (HDI) and (B) 5-60% by weight of an isocyanurate of 1-isocyanato-3,5,5-trimethyl-5-isocyanatomethylcyclohexane (IPDI); and  
(C) at least one emulsifier,

wherein the at least one emulsifier is obtained by the reaction of at least part of the isocyanurate and/or biuret of HDI, and/or the isocyanurate of IPDI with 5-40% by weight of at least one component (C1), wherein the component (C1) comprises at least one isocyanate-reactive group and at least one hydrophilic group.

Claim 17 (New): A polymer dispersion, comprising the composition as claimed in claim 16, and one or more additives other than solvents.

Claim 18 (New): A coating composition, comprising the composition as claimed in claim 16, and one or more additives other than solvents.

Claim 19 (New): A method of coating a substrate, comprising, applying the composition as claimed in claim 16, as a coating material, to the substrate.

Claim 20 (New): A method of adhesively bonding substrates, comprising, applying the mixture as claimed in claim 16, to at least one substrate.

Claim 21 (New): A water-emulsifiable isocyanate composition consisting of:  
polyisocyanates consisting of: (A) 40-90 % by weight of an isocyanurate and/or biuret of 1,6-diisocyanatohexane (HDI) and (B) 5-60% by weight of an isocyanurate of 1-isocyanato-3,5,5-trimethyl-5-isocyanatomethylcyclohexane (IPDI);

(C) at least one emulsifier; and

(D) a solvent,

wherein the at least one emulsifier is obtained by the reaction of at least part of the isocyanurate and/or biuret of HDI, and/or the isocyanurate of IPDI with 5-40% by weight of at least one component (C1), wherein the component (C1) comprises at least one isocyanate-reactive group and at least one hydrophilic group.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 is currently amended.

Claims 3 is canceled. Claims 2 and 4 were previously canceled.

Claims 16-21 are added.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in claim 3 and the specification at page 3, lines 24-34 and page 12, lines 11-24, as originally filed.

Support for claims 16-21 can be found throughout the specification, e.g., at page 12, lines 11-28, and Examples 1-4, as originally filed.

No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1 and 5-21 will be pending in the present application.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner Niland for the courteous discussions with Applicants' representative regarding the present application. the Examiner regarding the claimed invention. In particular, it was noted that the references of record do not describe or suggest a water-emulsifiable isocyanate composition having polyisocyanates *consisting of* the claimed combination and specific amounts. Moreover, it was noted that there is no specific indication or requirement in the references for obtaining an emulsifier in the manner and amount presently claimed.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 5, 6, and 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,663,377 to Hombach et al.; and the rejection of 1, 3, and 5-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hombach et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,426,414 to Laas are respectfully traversed and obviated by amendment.

Applicants note, as pointed out by the Examiner, that the Hombach et al. reference includes several general descriptions of polyisocyanate preparations. However, in view of the above claim amendments, the reference does not describe or suggest the claimed invention with sufficient specificity.

In particular, the claimed invention has been amended to recite "polyisocyanates *consisting of*: (A) 40-90 % by weight of an isocyanurate and/or biuret of 1,6-diisocyanatohexane (HDI) and (B) 5-60% by weight of an isocyanurate of 1-isocyanato-3,5,5-trimethyl-5-isocyanatomethylcyclohexane (IPDI)." (Claims 1, 16, and 21). (Emphasis added). Moreover, "the at least one emulsifier is obtained by the reaction of at least part of the isocyanurate and/or biuret of HDI, and/or the isocyanurate of IPDI with 5-40% by weight of at least one component (C1)." (Claims 1, 16, and 21). (Emphasis added).

In contrast, the disclosure of the reference does not indicate nor require the claimed specific mixture and quantity at all. For instance, the composition may include a single

“aliphatic polyisocyanate *or* a mixture of aliphatic polyisocyanates.” (Column 2, lines 16-17). (Emphasis added). Moreover, it is noted that the reference refers to preferred combinations of polyisocyanates at column 2, lines 40-44. However, the reference clearly suggests that other polyisocyanates are added with the preferred mixture, in which such a preferred (limited) mixture is not even exemplified.

In particular, at column 2, beginning at line 48 through column 3, line 65, the reference recites that several of other “preferred” polyisocyanates may be added to the mixture. Moreover, the reference clearly indicates that the addition of these other preferred polyisocyanates may be desirable. (See column 3, line 66 through column 4, line 5; and claim 4). Further, it is noted that the examples in the reference include either HDI-based polyisocyanates (polyisocyanates 1-4 and 6) *or* IPDI-based polyisocyanates (polyisocyanate 5). (See column 6, line 62 through column 7, line 32). Therefore, the reference teaches away from polyisocyanates *consisting of* the claimed specific mixture.

Applicants also note that the reference indicates that emulsifiers may be added, in which they *can be* produced in a separate step or *can be* produced in situ. (See column 4, lines 6-49). However, there is no indication whatsoever that it would be advantageous or beneficial for one to choose to obtain the emulsifier in situ, as opposed to producing it in a separate step. Moreover, based on the reference’s extensive list of polyisocyanate mixtures, the several possible combinations of emulsifiers, and the Examples, there is clearly no guidance or evidentiary support for picking and choosing an emulsifier to be produced in the manner and quantity presently claimed.

Therefore, the claimed invention is clearly novel and unobvious over the Hombach et al. reference.

Regarding the Laas reference, the reference does not cure Hombach et al.’s deficiency in disclosing the claimed specific combination. It is noted that the Examiner uses this

reference for its general disclosure of solvents that may be useful for urethanes. However, it is also noted that the disclosure of Hombach et al. already indicates that solvents may be added. (See column 6, lines 20-22). Further, there is no suggestion of adding or specifically not adding a solvent, as presently claimed.

Therefore, the claimed invention is clearly novel and unobvious over the cited references, alone or in combination.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

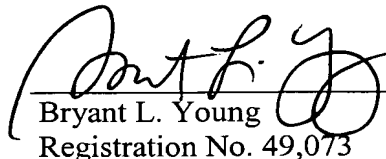
Applicants submit that newly added dependent claims 16-21 are also novel and unobvious, since the cited references do not describe a composition that includes these features and/or limitations.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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